

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-33. (Canceled)

34. (NEW) A method of negotiation between parties via a networked computer system, comprising:

- enrolling a first party for a negotiation via the networked computer system;
- enrolling a second party for the negotiation via the networked computer system;
- transmitting a predefined vocabulary and syntax rule from a broker computer to the first party and to the second party to describe goods, services, information, or property to be exchanged through the negotiation via a graphical user interface,
- the first party and the second party each preparing a negotiation position comprising statements according to the predefined vocabulary and syntax rule provided by the broker computer,
- the first party sending an encryption key to the second party;
- the first party and the second party applying the encryption key to partially encrypt their negotiation positions so that the statements in each negotiating position comprise encrypted words and non-encrypted words;
- transmitting files comprising the partially encrypted negotiation positions from the first party and from the second party to the broker computer, wherein said broker computer does not possess the encryption key;
- said broker computer comparing statements in the transmitted files to identify the syntax rule of each statement from the unencrypted words and to locate identical encrypted words in the negotiation statements;
- said broker computer comparing the negotiation positions of the first party and the second party to find a statement or statements in both negotiation positions;
- said broker computer transmitting to the first party and the second party a basis-for-agreement comprising the statements found in both negotiating positions;

said first party and the second party decoding the basis-for-agreement.

35. (NEW) A method according to claim 34 comprising
the first and second party each preparing a negotiation position which contains
one or more named numerical values or named numerical value ranges,

the first and second party applying said encryption key to each name of a
numerical value or numerical value range thereby obtaining a secret numerical offset
and secret numerical scaling factor for each named numerical value or named
numerical value range,

the first and second parties applying a linear mapping to each numerical value or
numerical value range using the secret numerical offset and secret numerical scaling
factor; and

said broker comparing the transmitted files and locating values and/or value
ranges in the negotiation statements satisfying a numerical relationship.